

REMARKS

Status Summary

In this Amendment, no claims are added, and no claims are cancelled. Therefore, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-15 and 43-55 will remain pending.

Title

The Examiner contends that the title is not descriptive and requires a new title that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. The title has been amended to "METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR PROVIDING CONVERGED NETWORK MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONALITY IN A GATEWAY ROUTING NODE TO COMMUNICATE OPERATING STATUS INFORMATION ASSOCIATED WITH A SIGNALING SYSTEM 7 (SS7) NODE TO A DATA NETWORK NODE" for better describing the subject matter of the present application and for better indicating the claimed subject matter. Particularly, applicants respectfully submit that the amended title better specifies the subject matter of the present application. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the title should now be acceptable.

Supplemental Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131

In the Official Action, the Examiner indicates that it is unclear whether the Addendum of the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) dated March 31, 2007 refers to the Supplemental Declaration filed January 27, 2006 or a new Supplemental Declaration. As a result, the Supplemental Declaration has not been considered by the Examiner. We spoke with the Examiner by telephone on March 27, 2007, where the

Examiner indicated that he wanted a copy of the Supplemental Declaration filed on January 27, 2006. Accordingly, we faxed a copy of the Supplemental Declaration. By telephone on April 23, 2007, the Examiner requested a full response to the Office Action dated December 5, 2006. This Amendment is a full response to the Office Action dated January 5, 2006.

The RCE dated March 31, 2007 is intended to refer to the Supplemental Declaration filed on January 27, 2006, a copy of which is enclosed herewith for the convenience of the Examiner and for consideration by the Examiner at this time. There has been no new supplemental declaration prepared or filed since the Supplemental Declaration filed on January 27, 2006. It is this declaration in combination with the remarks made in the response filed on January 27, 2006 that Applicants wish for the Examiner to consider. For the Examiner's convenience, these remarks are repeated herein as follows:

In the Official Action dated July 27, 2005, the Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 filed on April 7, 2005 was found to be defective because the Official Action indicated that the Declaration presented no evidence supporting the assertion of due diligence in reducing the invention to practice. Applicants respectfully disagree and note that in paragraph 5 of the Declaration, the inventors declare that they "worked continuously" on the MTP Primitives Feature from its conception date at least as early as August 2, 1999 until the Feature was reduced to practice. Applicants respectfully submit that the inventors' statement that they worked continuously on the Feature that embodies the claimed subject matter is evidence of due diligence and should have been given weight with regard to a finding of due diligence. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection of the claims based on Fourcand is requested for this reason alone.

Further, the Supplemental Declaration filed January 27, 2006 indicates that the claimed invention was actually reduced to practice in the United States at least as early as November of 1999, which is earlier than the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) date of Fourcand (March 31, 2000).

In particular, the Supplemental Declaration filed January 27, 2006 refers to a test plan and a weekly status report that indicate that testing of the MTP Primitives Feature, which embodies the invention, was completed at least as early as November 1999. The testing was performed at Tekelec's offices in Morrisville, North Carolina. The testing was performed on a working version of the MTP Primitives Feature. Since the invention was actually reduced to practice prior to the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) date of Fourcand, due diligence is irrelevant. (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.131(b).)

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 9-15, 43, 44, 47-49, and 55 were rejected under 37 C.F.R. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,870,565 to Glitho (hereinafter, "Glitho") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,731,741 to Fourcand (hereinafter, "Fourcand"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As stated in Applicants' response to the previous Official Action, Fourcand has a 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) date of March 31, 2000. For the reasons state above, Applicants have established a date of actual reduction to practice of the claimed invention at least as early as November, 1999. Accordingly, for this reason alone, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the above-referenced claims as unpatentable over Glitho in view of Fourcand should be withdrawn.

Moreover, as stated in Applicants' response to the previous Official Action, Glitho fails to teach or suggest detecting a network management event regarding operating status of an SS7 node residing in the SS7 network, and, in response to the event, generating a data network management message indicating the operating status of the SS7 node and sending that message to nodes in a data network that adapted to communicate with the SS7 network. Rather, Glitho discloses a telecommunications

management network **32** that sends operation and maintenance (O&M) messages to exchanges via an IP network. For example, Glitho states:

The telecommunications management network **32** communicates operation and maintenance with exchanges **14** via an interface commonly referred to as Q3. The Q3 operation and maintenance traffic is carried between each of the exchanges **14** in the telecommunications management network **32** by way of the data communications network **34** which in common practice utilizes a transmission control protocol/Internet protocol (TCP/IP) running on top of either a local area network (LAN) or wide area network (WAN). (See column 2, lines 52-63 of Glitho.)

From the above-quoted passage, rather than detecting network management event, generating a data network management message indicating the operating status of an SS7 node, and communicating the data network management message to nodes in a data network that are adapted to communicate with the SS7 network, Glitho teaches a telecommunications management network that sends operation and maintenance messages to the SS7 network. Operation and maintenance messages are messages that relate to provisioning of service within the SS7 network. (See column 1, lines 27-41 of Glitho.) Such messages have nothing to do with detecting network management events and communicating node status information to nodes in the data network as claimed. Accordingly, Glitho fails to teach or suggest the invention as claimed.

On page 2 of the Official Action dated July 27, 2005, the following is indicated:

The Examiner cannot find anywhere in the claim language “convey SS7 node operation status to IP nodes” or “including information of the operation status associated with the SS7 node.”

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner’s attention to element (a) of claim 1, which recites, “detecting a network management event regarding operation status of an SS7

node residing in the SS7 signaling network,” element (b), which recites, “generating a data network management message indicating the operation status of the SS7 node,” and element (c), which recites “sending the data network management messages to nodes in a data network that are adapted to communicate with the SS7 network.” The claim language indicates that an SS7 network management event regarding the operating status of an SS7 node is detected and that a data network management message indicating that operating status is generated and communicated to the data network. Even though this language is not exactly the same language quoted above from the Official Action, these features are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by Glitho, because Glitho discloses sending messages relating to provisioning of telecommunications services from a telecommunications management network to the SS7 network. Messages relating to service provisioning sent from the management network to the SS7 network are distinct from messages carrying information indicative of SS7 node status to the data network for at least two reasons. First, messages relating to service provisioning as taught by Glitho do not contain SS7 node status information. Rather, such messages contain information used to provide telecommunications services, such as number portability service. Second, the service provisioning messages of Glitho travel from the management network to the SS7 network rather than to the data network as claimed.

On page 2 of the Official Action dated July 27, 2005, it is indicated that column 4, lines 15-41 and column 8, lines 1-65 of Fourcand disclose “detecting a network management event regarding operation of an SS7 node, generating a data network

management message that includes SS7 point code status of the SS7 node, and sending the data network management message to specified nodes in the data network that are configured to communicate with the SS7 node.” As a preliminary matter, Applicants note that Fourcand is irrelevant because Applicants have established actual reduction to practice of the claimed invention prior to the 102(e) date of Fourcand. Moreover, column 4, lines 15-41 and column 8, lines 1-65 of Fourcand do not disclose the features asserted in the Official Action. For example, the only reference to SS7 messages in column 4, lines 15-41 of Fourcand occurs in the following passage:

SCLEs **83** are coupled via a mate link for fast fault detection and recovery. SS7 synchronization messages may be sent between SLCEs **83** over their associated mate link connection to allow SS7 link state machines to stay synchronized. Upon detection of an error on the active SCLE **83**, the standby SCLE assumes responsibility for processing the SS7 traffic without having a link failure. (Emphasis added.) (See column 4, lines 17-24 of Fourcand.)

The above-quoted passage from Fourcand refers to a synchronization procedure performed by endpoints of an SS7 signaling link. The SS7 synchronization messages are sent between SS7 nodes in the SS7 network to avoid link failure, rather than to communicate operational status to nodes in a data network as claimed.

Column 8, lines 1-65 of Fourcand referenced in the Official Action dated July 27, 2005 refer to MTP level 2 link alignment, MTP level 3 routing, and global title translation. MTP level 2 link alignment, MTP level 3 routing, and global title translation are SS7-exclusive procedures and have nothing to do with communicating SS7 node status information in response to an SS7 network management event to a node in the data

Serial No.: 09/770,316

network disclosed. Accordingly, for this additional reason, the rejection of the claims as unpatentable over Glitho in view of Fourcand should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-8, 45, 46, and 50-54 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims should be allowed in light of the arguments presented above and/or in light of the Supplemental Declaration.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above Amendments and Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

Serial No.: 09/770,316

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

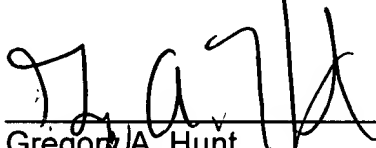
A check in the amount of \$450.00 is enclosed. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies of payment or credit any overpayment associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS, WILSON, TAYLOR & HUNT, P.A.

Date: April 24, 2007

By: _____


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